MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No. They come under another head, *i. e.*, 16 C. But this item comes under 16 B.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House sanctions the grant.

The grant was made.

The House adjourned for lunch at 2·5 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

DEMAND XVII—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise te move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 8,891 under Demand XVII—Medical Department.

This amount is made up of four items. The first is for the purchase of bedding and clothing for hospitals and dispensaries from the Central Prison. In the budget the amount provided for bedding and clothing is Rs 11,000. Of this, Rs. 3,000 is to provide for bedding and clothing in the new wards in the General Hospital, the Victoria Hospital, Quilon, and the hospitals at Nagercoil, Kottayam and Alleppey. The balance which is intended to provide for bedding and clothing for all the hospitals in the State this year is Rs. 8,000. It is seen that for the supply of bedding and clothing for the whole year for all the hospitals in the State, the total amount required for purchase from the Jail as well as from the contractors comes to Rs. 16,896. The available grant is Rs. 10,409. Excluding the amount already spent, the balance required is nearly Rs. 6,500. This year, the Administrative Board, Medical Services, considered the question whether it is not desirable to purchase certain articles from the Jail rather than from the contractors. Such articles are blankets, *jamkals*, *mundus* and bedsheets. The Board is of opinion that articles supplied by the Jail are far superior in quality and therefore far more durable than articles purchased from the contractors, although it is admitted that the cost also is somewhat higher. The necessity for the additional grant is two-fold. First of all, there has been some increase in the supplies made to hospitals and secondly the provision made was on the basis of the contract of previous years which I said was at lower rates than the Jail rates. So that, taking the two together, it is found that about Rs. 6,500 more, is required to provide for bedding and clothing for all the institutions during the year.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether beds have been added in the hospitals?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. I mentioned the very outset that new wards have been opened.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): How many beds have been added?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know the number of beds added in the hospitals. But I may say that new wards have been opened and no doubt these new wards have to be provided with beds.

The second item is the opening of a new dispensary at Ramapuram. The public of Ramapuram pakuthi in Minachil taluk urged on the Government the necessity for opening a dispensary in that locality and the Administrative Board, Medical Services, was thereupon asked to make enquiries and submit their recommendations. The Inspecting Medical Officer enquired into the matter and reported that the locality is a densely populated area. It is 10 miles away from Palai and 7 miles from Kuttattukulam. The people are put to great difficulty for want of medical aid. The people there are willing to provide a building for the dispensary, by raising public subscriptions. Since the matter was urgent and since the people there are ready to spend so much money on behalf of that institution the Government authorised the Administrative Board to open a dispensary. The amount required is Rs. 406. That is wanted to meet the pay of the staff and contingencies. No provision is made for the rent of the building or for furniture.

The third item is the entertainment of 4 Sisters of the Holy Cross in the Leper Asylum. Now there is no expert nursing in the Leper Asylum and the Administrative Board has recommended the employment of 4 Sisters of the Holy Cross for nursing as is don in some other hospitals in the State. One of these is a Head Nurse and she will have to be paid an honorarium of Rs. 60 per mensem and the others Rs. 50 each. It is proposed to give free quarters to all these sisters, since it is thought undesirable that they could live with the nursing sisters of other hospitals in the town. They have also to be provided with uniforms and since they have to live in separate quarters, we have to make provision for a cook, a dhoby and a scavenger for them. The total expenditure on this account is Rs. 1,585.

The last item is the opening of a new dispensary at Piravam. The people of Piravam have been long complaining about the want of a dispensary there. In 1924, the Darbar Physician recommended the opening of a dispensary and on several occasions the matter was pressed in the Legislative Council in 1925 and 1926. The question was left over for future consideration because in 1101 and 1102 Government opened a number of other dispensaries. Piravam is a place which is thickly populated and which has no hospital within a radius of 10 miles. In fact, the nearest medical institutions are in Kuttattukulam and Muvattupuzha. These places are over 10 and 15 miles away from Piravam. Piravam is also an important place having various Government institutions. Therefore it is proposed to open a dispensary there. What is asked for is only Rs. 400.

PRESIDENT: May I take it that the House accepts the demand.

The grant was made.

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